

Jennifer June Brown et al.

Serial No. 10/042,711

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### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-38. (CANCELLED)

Claim 39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure in a model animal system comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a Tupaia belangeri with a human viral pathogen, wherein said pathogen is ~~HCV, HIV-1~~ or HIV-2HBV;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure in said infected Tupaia belangeri;
- and
- c) evaluating the effect of said potential therapeutic procedure on disease manifestations caused by said human viral pathogen in said infected animal.

Claims 40-42. (CANCELLED)

Claim 43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 39 wherein said potential therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.

Claims 44-48. (CANCELLED)

Claim 49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure which alleviates a clinical manifestation[[s]] of a disease caused by a human viral pathogen, wherein said pathogen is ~~HCV, HIV-1 or HIV-2HBV~~, comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting Tupaia belangeri with ~~a human viral pathogen, wherein said pathogen is~~ HCV, HIV-1 or HIV-2HBV;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure in said infected Tupaia belangeri;
- and

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c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic procedure on the clinical manifestation[[s]]  
caused by said human viral pathogen.

Claim 50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 49 wherein said potential  
therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.

Claim 51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 49 wherein said clinical  
manifestations ~~are secondary disease manifestations of said infection and wherein said disease~~  
~~manifestations are~~ is selected from the group consisting of inflammation, fibrosis, induced auto-  
immunity, apoptosis, an abnormal liver section, an elevated plasma ALT level [[or]] and a  
combination thereof.

Claims 52-74. (CANCELLED)

Claim 75. (NEW) The method of claim 39 wherein the disease manifestation is presence or  
quantity of a component of the viral pathogen.

Claim 76. (NEW) The method of claim 75 wherein the component of the viral pathogen is viral  
RNA.

Claim 77. (NEW) The method of claim 75 wherein the component of the viral pathogen is a  
protein of the viral pathogen.

Claim 78. (NEW) The method of claim 39 wherein the disease manifestation is presence of a  
serum antibody that specifically reacts to a component of the viral pathogen.

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